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Office of Communications News Release

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National Park Service Freedom Festival Continues through Weekend To Commemorate 50th Anniversary of March on Washington

Washington, D.C. – The National Park Service (NPS) marks the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington with a Freedom Festival in West Potomac Park August 23 – 25.

“The National Park Service and our partners have been working for some time to ensure that our visitors have the opportunity to commemorate this important historical event. We think this festival with exhibits and entertainment will provide a fun educational experience for those visiting” said Bob Vogel, Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA).

Planning for the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington is no small feat. In addition to events being planned by other organizations the NPS is sponsoring a Freedom Festival with tents and exhibitions based on the following themes:

- Freedom to Prosper in Life
- Freedom to Participate in Government
- Freedom to Peacefully Co-Exist

The dates and times for the festival are:

- Friday, August 23, 2013 – 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 24, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 25, 2013 – 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

(Note: on the entertainment stage local gospel, jazz, and R&B acts will play from 6-7pm each evening.)

Highlights of the Festival include:

Freedom to Prosper in Life

- A special Youth Pavilion with lots of hands on activities for children
- American Federation of Teachers present a Book Give Away, Celebrity Read-a-loud, and Freedom Photo Booth
- Talent Stage: Dance Workshop , Other youth talent (to be confirmed)

Freedom to Participate in Government Exhibits

- United States Postal Service - Sale of first issue *March On Washington* stamp
- Southern Poverty Law Center - Civil Rights Exhibit
- Center for Disease Control - Information regarding Health Reform & Health Issues

Freedom to Peacefully Co-Exist Exhibits

- Freedom Bus Exhibit – tour an actual bus used during the Civil Rights Freedom Rides
- StoryCorps Mobile Booth– Record Interviews capturing personal stories about the original MOW

Complete information on all events can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/nama/march-on-washington.htm>

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